

REMARKS

Claims 14-27 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 14, 23, 24 and 25 are amended and claims 15, 16, 21, and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. THE DRAWINGS MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a)

The Office Action objects to the drawings for allegedly failing to show certain features of the invention. Applicant submits a new informal Fig. 5 in response to the objections. No new matter is added.

II. CLAIMS 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26 AND 27 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 35 U.S.C. 112, FIRST PARAGRAPH

The Office Actions rejects claims 15, 16, 18, 19, 21, 24, 25, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which is not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one of ordinary skill in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is moot in view of the above claim amendments and the remarks below.

III. CLAIMS 14-27 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action rejects claims 14-27 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The rejection is

respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that this rejection is moot in view of the above claim amendments and the remarks below.

IV. CLAIMS 14, 17 AND 20 DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

The Office Action rejects claims 14, 17 and 20 under 35 USC as being anticipated by European patent 672480A1 (hereinafter "the '672 patent"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The '672 patent discloses a transport system which comprises at least one independent transport device dedicated to each machining station, the transport device being effective for receiving and transporting a workpiece in at least one of a 2-axial and a 3-axial transport motion. However, the Applicants' invention as claimed in claim 14, provides for at least two drive motors which act together in order to produce movements of the racks 10, 11, 19, 21, 42 or 44. The '672 patent does not provide this range of movement.

Thus, for at least this reason, the '672 patent fails to disclose the invention recited in claim 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is distinguishable over the applied art. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 USC 102 is respectfully requested.

V. CLAIMS 14 AND 20 DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER UNDER 35 USC 103

A. The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 20 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Barnett et al. in view of Peltier. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Barnett discloses a multiple access robot wherein a load bearing member, disposed along the X-axis of a Cartesian coordinate system, is supported at its ends by a pair of Y-axis joints of the robot. Peltier discloses a two axis robot having a first rail extending in one direction and having a first slide mounted thereon, the first slide being slidable along the rail. A second rail is provided which extends away from the first rail and has one end secured to the first slide.

Thus, neither Barnett or Peltier discloses or suggests the invention recited in claims 14 and 20 of the Applicants' invention. In particular, Barnett and Peltier fail to disclose or suggest at least two drive motors which act together in order to produce movements of the racks in several directions.

Further, neither Barnett nor Peltier provide the requisite motivation to either combine or modify their teachings to arrive at the invention claimed in claims 14 and 20. Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, claims 14 and 20 are distinguishable over the applied art. Withdrawal of the rejections of claims 14 and 20 under 35 USC 103 is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claim 20 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Barnett in view of Peltier and in further view of Handel. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

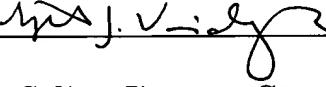
Applicant submits that Handel fails to supply the deficiencies of Barnett and Peltier as discussed above. Thus, claim 20 is distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons described above. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 20 under 35 USC 103 is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnest solicit. Should the Examiner believe that any thing further is necessary to expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

HOGAN & HARTSON LLP
555 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600
Customer No. 24,633

Celine Jimenez Crowson
Reg. No. 40,356

Ajit J. Vaidya
Reg. No. 43,214

Enclosure:

Mark-up copy of claims
Mark-up of Fig. 5

Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

Claims 15, 16, 21 and 22 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 14, 23, 24 and 25 are amended as follows:

14. (Amended) Apparatus for transporting workpieces in a press, press line, or multi-stage press [for components or the like], the apparatus comprising a number of processing stations, each processing station having an independent transporting apparatus for transporting the workpiece and executing a biaxial transporting movement, the transporting apparatus comprising:

a drive system used for driving a crossmember; [and]

a workpiece-retaining element connected with the crossmember; and

first slides with linear guides on which the cross member is mounted;

a movement-transmission element connected with the crossmember, the movement-transmission element further including a rack drive for carrying out longitudinal, lifting and lowering movements of the first slides for the cross member, a drive for pivotably moving the crossmember, the drive being mounted on the first slides, and two parallel racks driven, via the gear wheels, by the stationary drives, for carrying out longitudinal movement, lifting and lowering movements of the first slides for the crossmember,

wherein said drive system has stationary drives with each acting on the movement-transmission element, and the drives move coordinately with the movement-transmission element so as to obtain a desired programmable traveling curve of the crossmember.



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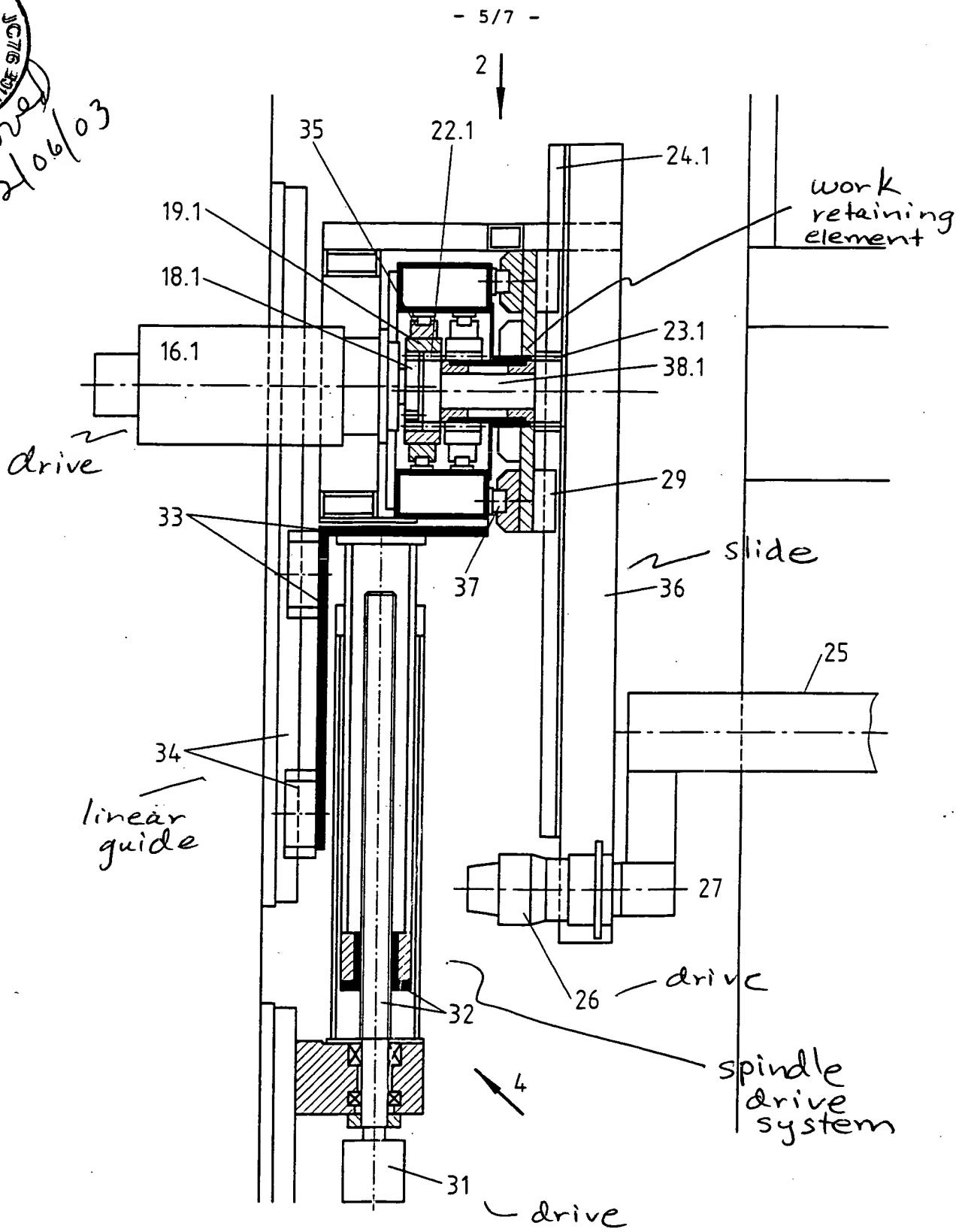


Fig. 5